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How to Walk in Accountability Which Promotes the Fruit of Integrity

Consider some of the recent revelations and headlines of leadership scandals in the church.

Mega church pastor Bill Hybels resigns over swirl of accusations.

Pastor Andy Savage resigns over sex abuse investigation.

Southern Baptist CEO confesses to “Morally inappropriate relationship.”

Pastor Perry Noble fired after 16 years due to alcoholism and divorce.

Why the Catholic church continues to struggle with sex abuse scandals.

INTEGRITY IS
choosing
COURAGE OVER COMFORT;
CHOOSING WHAT IS RIGHT
over what is
FUN, FAST, OR EASY;
AND CHOOSING TO
PRACTICE OUR VALUES
rather than simply
PROFESSING THEM.

There is a cynicism in the land today over leadership scandals both in the political arena as well as the church. With the new waves of sexual abuse scandals and the MeToo Movement the media tends to relish reporting about politicians, media personalities, and church leaders whose lives that are not congruent with the messages they stand for. This cynicism can be an easy defense mechanism for one’s own lack of commitment or it can be an underlying desire for

authentic leaders who have integrity.

Salt & Light/C2C Family and Accountability: One of our Salt & Light/C2C core family values is.

“Everyone is called to be both making disciples and disciplined in accountable relationships. This includes church senior leaders, who should relate to someone for input, accountability and care.”

There has always been a need for God’s people, leaders first, to walk in real accountable relationships. It is God’s way of living. The Bible calls it *Walking in the light*. The Apostle John wrote about it near the end of the first century as he was witnessing a dualism creeping into the church causing many people to live in hidden sin while publically professing faith in Jesus.

***1Jn 1:5-10** This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. (6) If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; (7) but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Image is what people think we are: integrity is what we really are.
John Maxwell

Walking in open honest accountable relationships with God and His people helps keep us from drifting into the deceitfulness of sin.

***Heb 3:12-13** Take heed, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. (13) But exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

Independence, isolation, hiding and pride go against the nature of the Godhead.

***Proverbs 18:1-2** A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.*

Truths to embrace that help us walk in real accountability

- **Never keep things hidden in darkness, but always walk in the light (1 John 5:7).** Darkness is always the arena of the enemy, while light is always the arena of God. It is always **our** responsibility to be transparent. We

don't wait for someone to "hold us accountable" we are to "be accountable."
James 5:16 Confess your faults to one another and pray for one another so that you will be healed.

- **Deal with your issues before they deal with you.**
- **Never exalt charisma above character or gifts of the Spirit above fruit of the Spirit.**
- **Never be more impressed with outward appearances than the inward reality of the heart.**
- **Never put yourself or other leaders on a pedestal because it is easy to fall from it.**
- **A man can destroy in a moment with his character what he has built over a lifetime with his gift.**
- **Never imagine that someone is indispensable or that God won't judge someone because they seem to be doing so much to advance the Kingdom.**
- **Make sure that you are teachable and correctable.**
- **Stay in real covenant relationships that provide genuine accountability.**
- **What you don't deal with privately, God will deal with publicly. Your sin will always find you out.**
- **Pride will always find you out and trip you up because pride is of the devil while humility is a Godly trait.**

Genesis 4:9 I don't know where my brother is. Am I my brother's keeper?

Check it out and sign up

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